

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4666

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, NA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL STEYN

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM WINDHOEK, ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL STEYN TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, AUGUST10, PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR PRETORIA, THAT THE QUESTION OF THE TARGET DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND POINTS OF POSSIBLE DISAGREEMENT" SUCH AS THE REGISTRATION ISSUE WOULD PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED AND ANALYZED IN DEPTH WITH UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AHTISAARI AT A LATER DATE AFTER AHTISAARI HAD FINISHED CONSULTING POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE TERRITORY. STEYN REPORTEDLY SAID THERE HAD BEEN SUBMISSIONS MADE ON THE INDEPENDENCE DATE, WHICH TO HIS MIND, WAS CONTAINED IN THE WESTERN PROPOSALS AS A "MANDATORY ELEMENT" AND WAS NOT CAPABLE OF VARIATION
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AS THE DOCUMENT NOW STOOD.

2. "I KNOW THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO FEEL THAT DATE SHOULD NO LONGER BE REGARDED AS THE TARGET DATE AND THAT ANOTHER SHOULD BE AGREED UPON",STEYN SAID. HE INDICATED THAT THIS QUESTION AND THE REGISTRATION ISSUE HAD BEEN REPORTEDLY MENTIONED IN HIS TALKS WITH AHTISAARI BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO

DETAILED DISCUSSION.

3. OUTLINING THE PURPOSE OF HIS PRETORIA'S VISIT, THE JUDGE SAID THAT HIS MISSION WOULD BE A MULTIPLE ONE BUT THERE WAS NOTHING "SINISTER" IN IT. HE WANTED TO INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS SO FAR AND TO TELL FIRSTHAND OF THE RAPPORT HE HAD ESTABLISHED WITH HIS UN COUNTERPART. HE WOULD ALSO BE SEEING VARIOUS OTHER MINISTERS ON OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS THE CREATION OF A INDEPENDENT LAND BANK FOR THE TERRITORY AND A DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION.

4. STEYN ALSO REPORTEDLY COMMENTED ON THE QUESTION OF REFUGEES RETURNING TO NAMIBIA. APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT AHTISAARI'S REMARK EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT THE UN WOULD PROBABLY BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN HELPING REFUGEES TO RETURN, STEYN SAID HE BELIEVED AHTISAARI WAS REFERRING TO THE QUESTION OF PEOPLE DETAINED BY SWAPO ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ANGOLAN BORDER OR IN ZAMBIA.

STEYN SAID THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS CONTAINED A PROVISION THAT THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN CONTACTING THOSE DETAINEES OR EXPATRIATES AND ENQUIRE FROM THEM IF THEY WISH TO RETURN TO THE TERRITORY OR NOT ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, STEYN SAID IT WOULD FIRST BE NECESSARY TO ASCERTAIN IF, IN FACT, THERE WERE DETAINEES.

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WHERE THEY WERE, BY WHOM THEY WERE DETAINED, AND HOW MANY THERE WERE. "I THINK IT WAS MAINLY REQUESTS TO MR. AHTISAARI BY COLLEAGUES OF THOSE WHO ARE ALLEGED TO BE IN DETENTION THAT LED TO THE REMARK THAT QUITE OBVIOUSLY SOUTH AFRICA NOT BEING ALLOWED THIS MOMENT IN TERMS THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO GO ACROSS THE BORDER IN ANY FORCE THE UN MUST OUT OF NECESSITY BECOME INVOLVED IN THE MATTER. IT'S A MATTER WHICH IS STILL OPENED FOR DISCUSSION. IT'S A MATTER AS TO WHO IS TO BE ALLOWED TO HAVE WORD WITH AND TO SEE THESE DETAINEES APART FROM THE UN REPRESENTATIVES THEMSELVES. I DON'T THINK IT IS ADVISABLE AT THIS STAGE TO TRAVERSE THE MATTER ANY FURTHER AS TO WHO THESE OTHER PERSONS OR BODIES WOULD BE, WHO COULD ALSO POSSIBLY BE ALLOWED TO CROSS THE BORDER AND TO SATISFY THEMSELVES BY INDEPENDENT OBSERVATION AND QUESTIONING AS TO THE FACT THAT THERE ARE DETAINEES AND WHETHER THEY WISH VOLUNTARILY TO RETURN OR NOT."

5. REFERRING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A CEASEFIRE, REPORTEDLY THE JUDGE SAID, IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD ANNOUNCE THE DATE. ASKED IF THE QUESTION OF VIOLENCE IN THE NORTHERN AREAS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN THIS MEETING

SO FAR WITH AHTISAARI EYN WAS REPORTED AS SAYING
"IT HAS BEEN MENTIONED BY ME TO HIM IN THE SENSE OF TO
WHAT EXTENT HE WOULD BE FREE TO MOVE WHERE OR WHEN HE WISHED.
I AM CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SAFETY, I WOULD BE EXTREMELY DISTRESSED
IF THIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OR ANY MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF
WOULD BE WOUNDED IN ANY WAY, MUCH LESS KILLED BY ANY IN-
CIDENT IN THE BORDER AREAS. FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD THEY TRAVEL
BY ROAD AND THEIR CAR HIT AND EXPLODE A LANDMINE...
I FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE WISE FOR HIM TO CONSULT WITH THE
SECURITY FORCES AS TO THE MODE OF CONVEYANCE AND WHERE TO
TRAVEL TO."
EDMONDSON

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